

Appln No. 09/765,535
Amdt date January 5, 2006
Reply to Office action of July 5, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for calculating travel costs for a user comprising:
an information request step, wherein the user is prompted to enter information for a plurality of travel products;
an information receipt step, wherein information for the plurality of travel products is received from a user;
a calculation step, wherein the received information is used to search through an electronic database to determine the cost of the plurality of travel products; [[and]]
a reporting step performed after the calculation step, wherein the cost of each of the plurality of travel products is reported to the user[.];
a prompting step wherein the user is prompted to request alternative travel product information; [[and]]
an alternative travel request receipt step wherein a user request to receive alternative travel product information is received[.];
a second calculating step wherein an electronic discount database is accessed to determine alternative travel products to offer the user, wherein at least one criteria to be searched for during determination of alternative travel products is determined by automatically altering information for the plurality of travel products received from the user; and
an alternative travel reporting step wherein alternative travel products are reported to the user.
2. (Previously Presented) The method for calculating travel costs of claim 1 wherein the reporting step and the alternative travel reporting steps comprise displaying a range of prices for each travel product based upon availability of products from different product providers; and displaying a total price range for all of the requested travel products.

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3. (Previously Presented) The method for calculating travel costs of claim 2 wherein the information request step further comprises prompting a user to select an airline departure date, a departure location, a destination location.

4. (Previously Presented) The method for calculating travel costs of claim 3 wherein the information request step further comprises prompting a user to select a hotel location and a number of nights to reside at the hotel.

5. (Previously Presented) The method for calculating travel costs of claim 4 wherein the information request step further comprises prompting a user to select a rental car location and a number of days a rental car will be rented.

6. (Currently Amended) The method for calculating travel costs of claim 5 wherein as part of the calculation step, [[the]] a received duration of time between the airplane departure date and the airplane return date is used to determine the number of nights to reside at the hotel and the number of days a rental car will be rented.

7. (Previously Presented) The method for calculating travel costs of claim 6 wherein as part of the calculation step, the airplane destination city is used to determine the hotel location and the rental car location.

8. (Previously Presented) The method for calculating travel costs of claim 5 wherein alternative travel products are found by altering at least one of the group consisting of the departure flight city, the departure flight date, the destination city, the return flight date, the number of nights of hotel rental, the type of hotel rented, the number of days of car rental, and the type of car rented to conform to the requirements of at least one discount in the discount database.

9. (Previously Presented) The method for calculating travel costs of claim 8 further comprising a prompting step wherein a user is prompted to purchase travel products.

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10. (Previously Presented) A method for calculating travel costs of claim 9 further comprising:

a personal information prompting step wherein the user is prompted to enter personal information;

a personal information receiving step wherein personal information is received from a user;

a payment information prompting step wherein the user is prompted to enter payment information;

a payment information receiving step wherein payment information is received from a user; and

a reservation step wherein travel product providers of the purchased products are contacted, reservations are made, and travel products purchased.

11. (Previously Presented) The method for calculating travel costs of claim 10 wherein the information request step further comprises prompting a user to select at least one of the group consisting of a cruise departure date, a cruise departure location, a cruise destination location, a cruise return date, a cruise provider, a cruise ship, a cruise name, and a cruise passenger class.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for calculating travel costs for a user comprising:
an information request step, wherein the user is prompted to enter information for a plurality of travel products;

an information receipt step, wherein information for the plurality of travel products is received from a user;

a first calculation step, wherein the received information for the plurality of travel products is used to search through an electronic database of travel products to determine the cost of the plurality of travel products;

a second calculation step, wherein the database of travel products is searched for automatically generated alterations of [[the]] received ~~desired~~ travel product information to take advantage of discounts; and

a reporting step after the first calculation step, wherein the cost of each of the plurality travel products is reported to the user.

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13. (Previously Presented) The method for calculating travel costs of claim 12 wherein the information request step further comprises:

prompting a user to enter at least one of the group consisting of desired airline, cruise, train, hotel and car rental information.

14. (Currently Amended) A system for determining travel product prices for users comprising:

an information server coupled to a computer network;

a user terminal coupled to the computer network;

a first database coupled to the computer network for storing airplane flight information;

and

a second database coupled to the computer network for storing hotel information;

a third database coupled to the computer network for storing rental car information;

wherein the information server is configured to receive a request for information on a plurality of travel products from the user terminal, aggregate airplane flight information from the first database, hotel information stored in the second database, and car rental information stored in the third database, and transmit the airplane flight information, hotel information, and car rental information to the user terminal to be displayed as a single report with information on each of the plurality of travel products, and

wherein the information server is configured to calculate permutations of the information on the plurality of travel products and provide alternate travel products in the single report.

15. (Previously Presented) The system for determining travel product prices of claim 14 further comprising:

an airplane flight discount database;

a hotel discount database; and

a car rental discount database;

wherein the information server is further configured to obtain discounted travel product information from the airplane flight discount database, the car rental discount database, and the car rental discount database; and

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wherein the information server is further configured to transmit discounted travel product information to the user terminal.

16. (Cancel)

17. (Currently Amended) A method for calculating travel costs for a user comprising:
an information request step, wherein the user is prompted to enter information for a plurality of travel products;

an information receipt step, wherein the information for the plurality of travel products is received from a user;

a first calculation step, wherein the received information is used to search through an electronic database to determine the cost of the plurality of travel products; and

a reporting step performed after the first calculation step, wherein the cost of each of the plurality of travel products is reported to the user;

a second calculating step wherein a discount database is accessed to determine alternative travel products to offer the user using search criteria automatically generated from the information received from the user; and

an alternative travel reporting step wherein alternative travel products are reported to the user.

18. (Previously Presented) The method for calculating travel costs of claim 17 wherein the information request step further comprises prompting a user to select attributes for at least one of the group consisting of cruise, airplane, hotel and car rental related travel products.

19. (Previously Presented) The method for calculating travel costs of claim 18 wherein the reporting step comprises displaying a range of prices for each travel product based upon availability of products from different product providers; and displaying a total price range for all of the requested travel products.

20. (Previously Presented) The method for calculating travel costs of claim 18 wherein the alternative travel reporting step comprises displaying alternative travel products in

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sets, and displaying a total price range for all of the selected alternative travel products in a given set.

21. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
providing a user interface to a user over a communications network;
causing the user interface to prompt the user to enter information for a plurality of travel products into the user interface;
receiving the information over the communications network;
searching a first database on a server to determine the cost of the plurality of travel products;
generating a report to be displayed through the user interface, the report comprising the cost of each travel product to be displayed concurrently;
causing the user interface to prompt the user to request alternate travel product information;
~~receiving-generating~~ alternative travel product search criteria automatically based on information from the user;
accessing a second database to determine alternative travel products to offer the user; and
generating a report to be displayed through the user interface, the report comprising [[the]] each alternative travel product ~~is reported~~.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein a processor in the server executes the searching of the first database.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
transmitting the report over the communication network to a user device.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the communications network is the Internet.

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25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein ~~a single database~~ comprises the first and second databases are each a part of a larger database.

26. (New) The method for calculating travel costs of claim 1, wherein dates of travel, type of accommodation, or type of rental car are automatically altered from user information to determine alternative travel products.

27. (New) The system for determining travel product prices of claim 14, wherein calculating permutations of the information include permutations of dates of travel, type of accommodation or type of car rental.

28. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein generating alternative travel product search criteria automatically based on information from the user includes altering dates of travel, type of accommodation or type of car rental.